MARVEL COMICS
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2099
WORLD OF TOMORROW
DOOM'S FINAL GAMBIT!
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DE-EVOLUTION

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AWAKEN, CHILD...
NNNGH!
WHERE AM-- Oh, Yeah!
MILES UNDER THE SAVAGE LAND..
..JUST HANGING OUT.
WAITING FOR MISTER RIGHT TO COME ALONG.
--SO I CAN SHOVE A FISTFUL OF LOVING THROUGH HIS TEETH!
EULP!
SUCH FEROCITY IS UNBECOMING A WOMAN OF YOUR ESTEEMED POSITION, MADEMOISELLE STRANGE!

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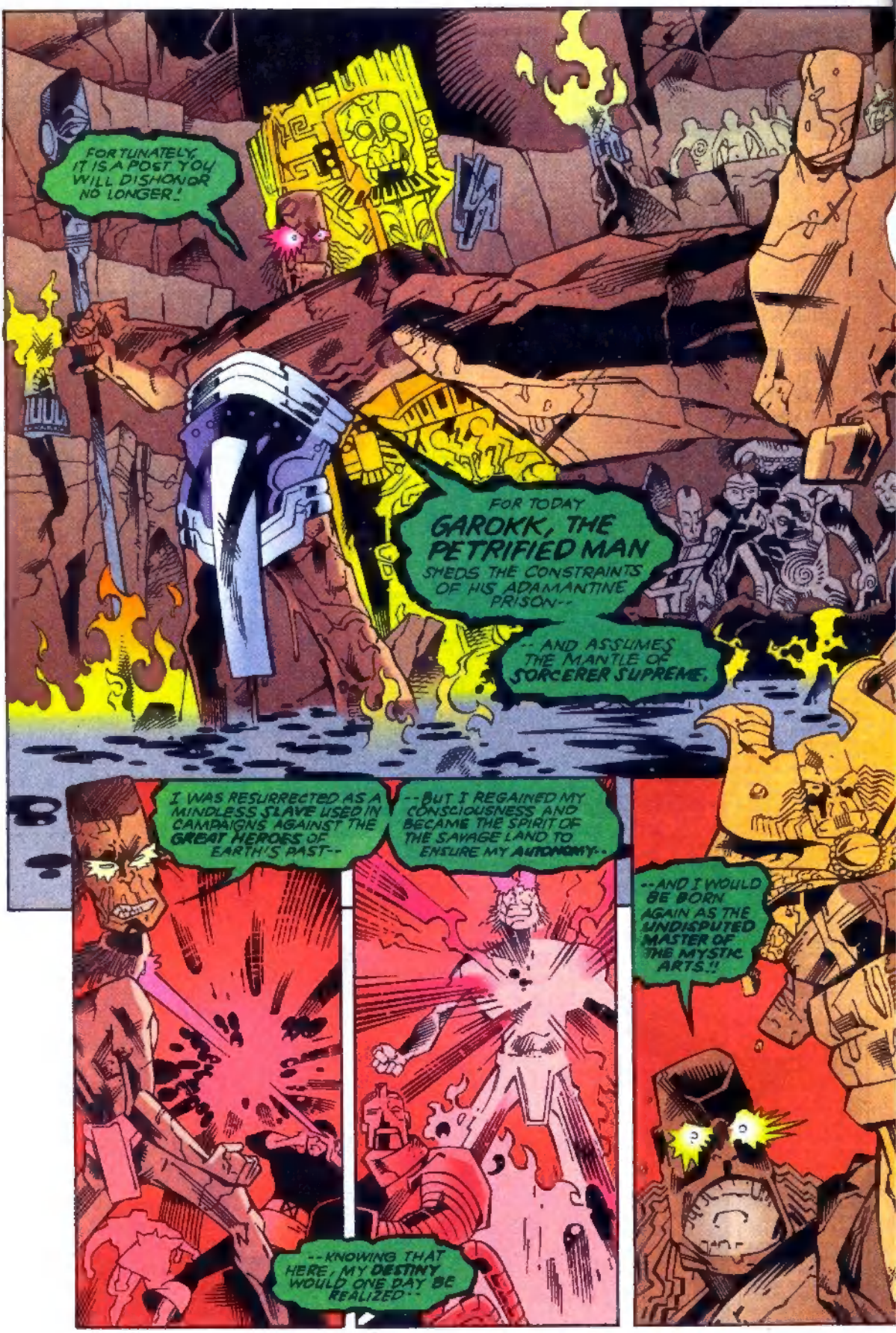
FORTUNATELY, IT IS A POST YOU WILL DISHONOR NO LONGER!
FOR TODAY GAROKK, THE PETRIFIED MAN SHEDS THE CONSTRAINTS OF HIS ADAMANTINE PRISON--
--AND ASSUMES THE MANTLE OF SORCERER SUPREME.
I WAS RESURRECTED AS A MINDLESS SLAVE USED IN CAMPAIGNS AGAINST THE GREAT HEROES OF EARTH'S PAST--
--BUT I REGAINED MY CONSCIOUSNESS AND BECAME THE SPIRIT OF THE SAVAGE LAND TO ENSURE MY AUTONOMY--
--AND I WOULD BE BORN AGAIN AS THE UNDISPUTED MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS!!
--KNOWING THAT HERE, MY DESTINY WOULD ONE DAY BE REALIZED--

I SHOULD HOPE NOT.
SUBMISSION IS SO DROLL.
BUT YOU HAVE NO CHOICE IN THE MATTER, LITTLE CASTLING--
VID THIS, SILT FOR BRAINS--
--NO FLARKIN' FOESIL IS TAKING THIS TITLE FROM ME WITHOUT A FIGHT!
OBSERVE... AND LEARN--
IN MY FIRST LIFE I WAS A MIGHTY SORCERER, AN ALLY OF THIS ACCURSED LAND.
BUT POWER DROVE ME MAD, AND I DIED BEFORE MY DESTINY COULD BE REALIZED...
NOW.. WHILE HE'S LOST IN HIS REVERIE...
MISTRESS YOU MUST TRUST ME. THERE IS SO LITTLE TIME.
UMI-- YOU'RE A TELEPATH?
YES. I'M FORCE FEEDING YOU A SPELL TO BREAK THESE BONDS--
CLEVER WITCH! YOU SEEK TO FOIL ME, EVEN TO THE LAST--
SHWOK
--BUT IT WAS A PATHETIC ATTEMPT AT BEST!

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SHWOK

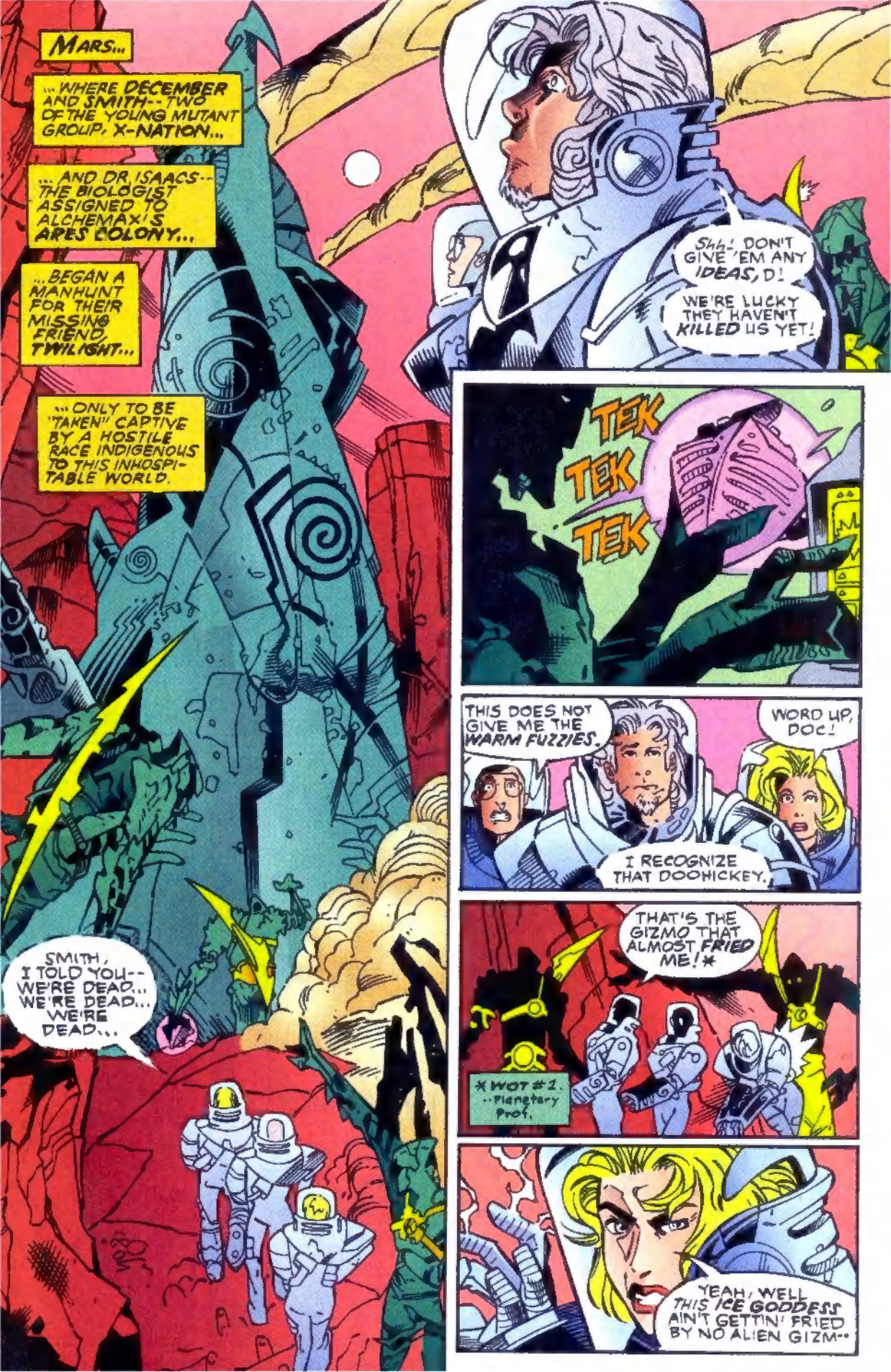
--BUT IT WAS A PATHETIC ATTEMPT AT BEST!

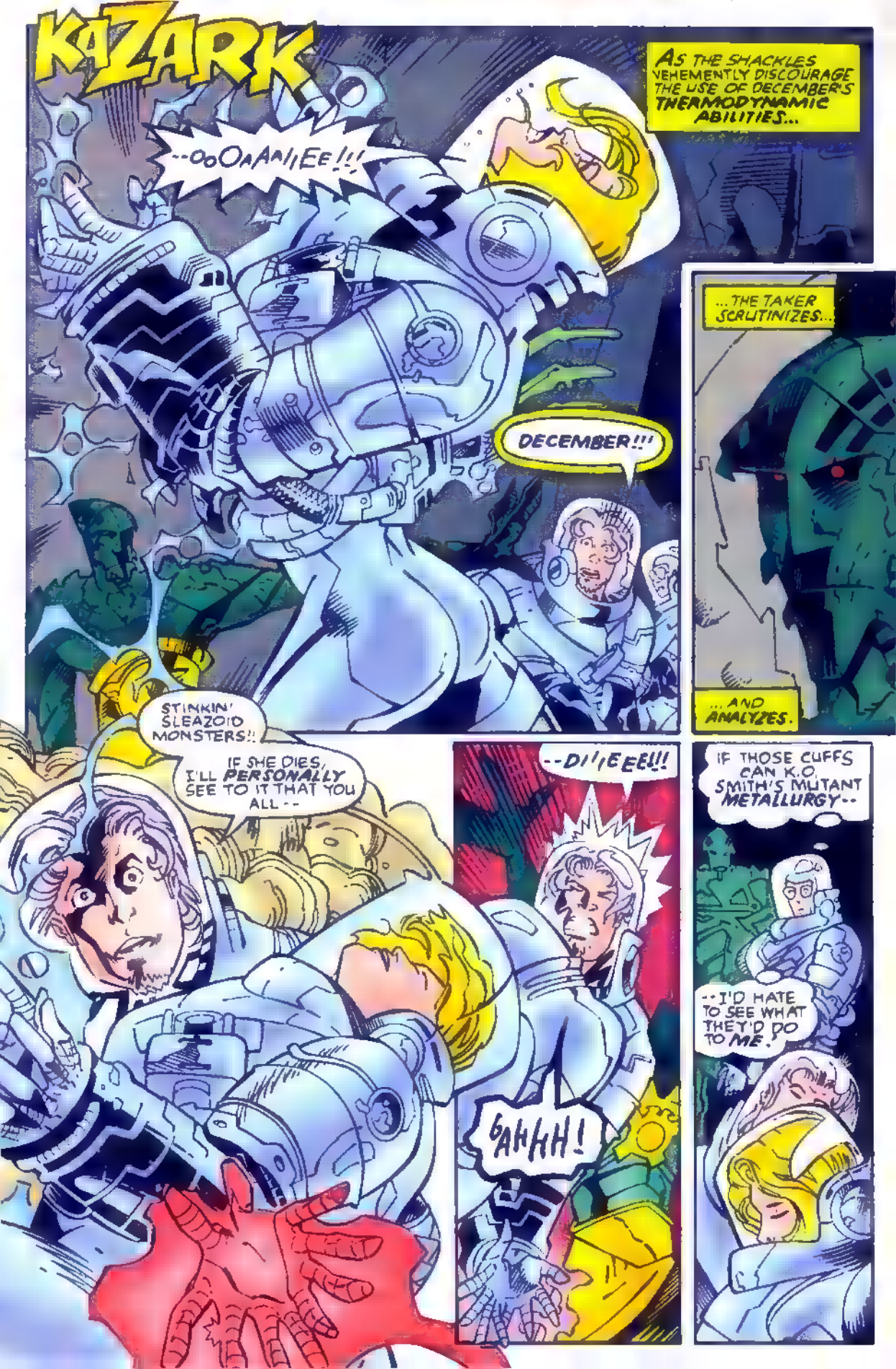
ABOVE, AT HUMANITY'S "LAST REFUGE" IN THE SAVAGE LAND...
...LIFE BEGINS ANEW FOR THE SURVIVORS OF THE CATACLYSMIC GLOBAL FLOODING.
BUT AS ONE YOUNG GIRL KNOWS...
...ONE OF THOSE SURVIVORS MAY NOT SURVIVE MUCH LONGER!
SOMEBODY!!!! ANYBODY!!!!
HEEELLLP!!!
OMIGOD... OMIGOD... OMIGOD... OMIGOD!
SHE'S GONNA DIE... SHE'S GONNA DIE... SHE'S GONNA--
--WHOULP!
KLANG
CHILL, KID! SLOW DOWN A SEC!
I CAN'T! SHE'S GONNA DIE!
WHO, KID? WHO'S GONNA DIE?
WHAT??? C'MON, KID--
--YER YANKIN' MY ANCHOR!
AM NOT! COME WITH ME -- I'LL SHOW YA!
CEREBRA!

UHHHHNNHH... E-D-D-I-E...?
I-I C-CAN'T... M-MOVE. C-CAN'T.. FEEL MY MIND.
I-I'M... S-S-O...N-N-NUMB-- S-SO C-C-COLD...
CEREBRA???
JEEZ, SHE LOOKS SO FRAGILE... SO VULNERABLE.
HOLD ON, GIRL--
SMASH!
--HELP'S ON THE WAY!!!
LONG AS I'VE KNOWN HER--
--I AIN'T SEEN NOTHIN' SHAKE SHAKTI UP LIKE THAT!
I DON'T KNOW WHO THE SHOCK DID THAT NASTY NUMBER ON HER--
--BUT I KNOW JUST THE GUY TO UNDO IT!
MAY THOUGHT AND DEED BE ONE--
--MAY DEED AND THOUGHT BE DONE.
PEACE PURGES THE MIND OF RAGE--
--AND RAGE MUST YIELD TO THE POWER OF PEACE...
YO XI'AN!!! EARTH TO XI'AN!!!
IT'S-- huff puff-- SHAKTI! SHE'S BEEN ATTACKED!
KRAK
SHE NEEDS-- huff puff-- YER HELP... LIKE, YESTERDAY!

SHAKTI'S A BIG GIRL NOW, EDWARD.
WHAT HELP COULD I OFFER?
TRY SAVIN' HER LIFE, YA ZEN ZERO!
HOW MANY TIMES DID CEREBRA PUT THAT LIFE ON THE LINE FOR THE REST OF US X-MEN--
--THE GROUP YOU FOUNDED AND THEN DESERTED!
NOW, UNLESS YOU AND THAT "GOLDEN TOUCH" O' YERS HAUL BUTT OVER TO THE REFUGE COMPOUND--
--SHE GONNA DI-IEEE!!
thurrm
DO YOU FEEL THAT THROUGH YOUR METAL HIDE, EDWARD?
THAT--IS BUT ONE ASPECT OF MY MUTANT ABILITIES.
IT IS THE ENTROPIC PAIN OF YOUR HAND'S MOLECULAR STRUCTURE IN DECAY.
I ASSUME IT'S QUITE PAINFUL--EVEN FOR YOU.
WHAT'S... WITH... YOU, XI'AN?
WHY ARE YOU ACTIN' LIKE THIS?
BECAUSE I CAN, OLD FRIEND...

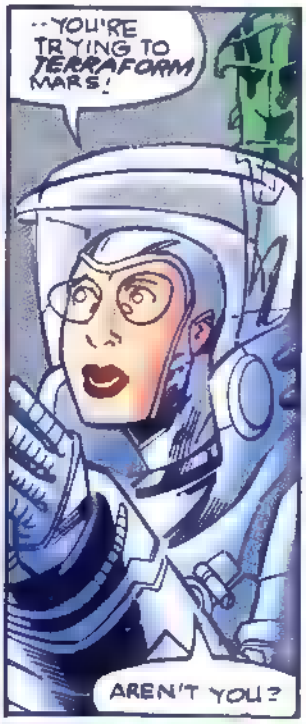
MINUTES LATER...
I HAVE NEVER TRIED TO REJUVENATE AN ENTIRE NERVOUS SYSTEM BEFORE--
MM HMMM.
I ASSUMED IT WOULD BE AS EXCRUCIATING.
GAAAH!
--SO YOU'LL EXPERIENCE SOME SEVERE PAIN, SHAKTI.
XI--XI'AN... IF THIS DOESN'T WORK--
--I'LL BE D-DEAD WITHIN HOURS...
I KNOW.
AT HER FELLOW X-MAN'S TOUCH, SHAKTI HADDAD FEELS A SHORT, SHARP SHOCK OF ELECTRICITY...
...FEELS THE WARMTH RADIATED BY HIS MUTANT ABILITY TO HEAL...
...AND PRAYS THAT HER ESTRANGED COMRADE CAN PROVIDE A PANACEA FOR HER PARALYSIS.
THAT'S IT? NOW WHAT??
NOW... WE WAIT.
XI'AN'S GETTIN' CREEPIER BY THE DAY! I OUGHTA-- WAITAMINUTE...
...WHAT THE SHOCK IS THAT???
GREETINGS-- EDWARD VAN BEETHOVEN!

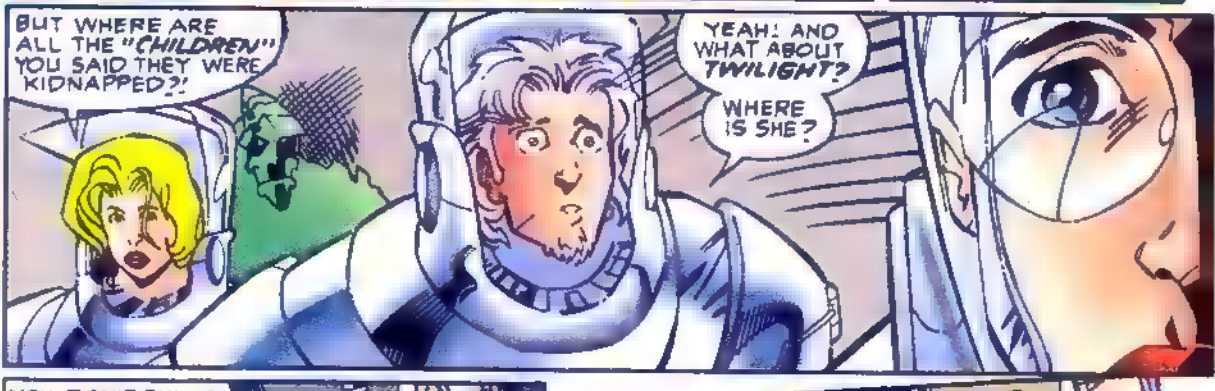

MARS...
...WHERE DECEMBER AND SMITH--TWO OF THE YOUNG MUTANT GROUP, X-NATION...
...AND DR. ISAACS--THE BIOLOGIST ASSIGNED TO ALCHEMAX'S ARES COLONY...
...BEGAN A MANHUNT FOR THEIR MISSING FRIEND, TWILIGHT...
...ONLY TO BE "TAKEN" CAPTIVE BY A HOSTILE RACE INDIGENOUS TO THIS INHOSPITABLE WORLD.
SMITH, I TOLD YOU--WE'RE DEAD.. WE'RE DEAD... WE'RE DEAD...
Shh! DON'T GIVE 'EM ANY IDEAS, D!
WE'RE LUCKY THEY HAVEN'T KILLED US YET!
TEK TEK TEK
THIS DOES NOT GIVE ME THE WARM FUZZIES.
WORD UP, DOC!
I RECOGNIZE THAT DOOHICKEY.
THAT'S THE GIZMO THAT ALMOST FRIED ME!*
* WOT #1. --Planetary Prof.
YEAH, WELL THIS ICE GODDESS AIN'T GETTIN' FRIED BY NO ALIEN GIZM--

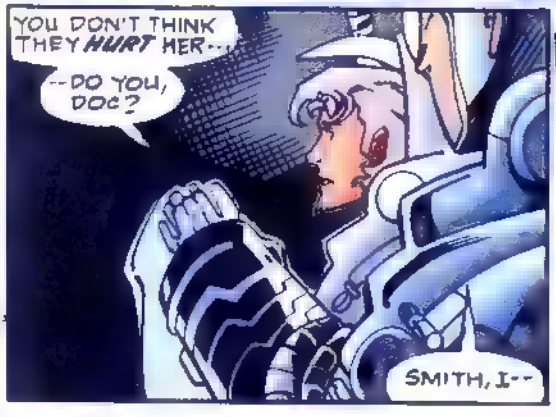

KAZARK
--OoOaAaAiEe!!!
AS THE SHACKLES VEHEMENTLY DISCOURAGE THE USE OF DECEMBER'S THERMODYNAMIC ABILITIES...
DECEMBER!!!
...THE TAKER SCRUTINIZES...
...AND ANALYZES.
STINKIN' SLEAZOID MONSTERS!!
IF SHE DIES, I'LL PERSONALLY SEE TO IT THAT YOU ALL--
--DiiEEE!!!
GAHHH!
IF THOSE CUFFS CAN K.O. SMITH'S MUTANT METALLURGY--
--I'D HATE TO SEE WHAT THEY'D DO TO ME!

INSIDE THE TAKERS' CITADEL...
THIS IS INCREDIBLE!
AND I THOUGHT ARES BASE WAS TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED!
SPEAKING OF ARES--
PEFT
PEFT
ARES BASE
--THAT'S ONE OF THE COLONY'S HYDROPONICS REPLICATORS!
WHAT IN THE WORLD COULD YOU [redacted] USING OUR TECH FOR?
BASIC BREEDING? CLONE REPLICATION TO KEEP YOURSELVES ALIVE?
Hmm... TOPOGRAPHICAL SCHEMATICS.
BUT, OF WHAT?
KLIK KLIK
RUMBLL
HOLY SHOCK!

THIS IS WHAT YOU'VE BEEN STEALING OUR EQUIPMENT FOR ALL ALONG, ISN'T IT?
YOU'RE TRYING TO DO THE EXACT SAME THING THAT ARES IS--


--YOU'RE TRYING TO TERRAFORM MARS!
AREN'T YOU?


BUT WHERE ARE ALL THE "CHILDREN" YOU SAID THEY WERE KIDNAPPED?!
YEAH! AND WHAT ABOUT TWILIGHT?
WHERE IS SHE?


YOU DON'T THINK THEY HURT HER--
--DO YOU, DOC?
SMITH, I--

WOOMP
MOTTHHHERRR!

ONCE UPON A TIME...
...IN A REALM CALLED LATVERIA, THE FATHERLAND.
A SOVEREIGN NAMED DOOM MADE A DEAL WITH THE DEVIL TO RESCUE HIS DROWNING KINGDOM.
THE TRANSACTION HAS JUST GONE SOUR.
THE SCOUT IS ARISEN!!! THE SLUMBER OF THE PHALANX IS AT AN END!!!
THE REBIRTH IS AT HAND!! MAGUS HAS TRIUMPHED!
O DIOS MIO! WHAT THE SHOCK IS THAT?!
ALL-FATHER--DOOM. WHAT'S HAPPENING?
ALLOW ME, MEATLING. THE PLANETOID THAT DECIMATED YOUR WORLD CONTAINS A LEGION OF PHALANX EMBRYOS.
UPON ACTIVATION OF THE CONSCRIPTION PROGRAM BURIED WITHIN THE SCOUT'S GENETIC CODE...
...THEY WILL AWAKEN TO ASSIMILATE THIS PLANET AND ALL OF ITS RESOURCES.
MOST EXQUISITE OF WHICH, CERTAINLY--
XINA!
--IS THE PIQUANT LIFE FORCE EMBEDDED WITHIN [redacted] FLESH.
NO...

PSCHKOWW!
HEY! I WAS ABOUT TO SAY THAT!
WELL, NOT EXACTLY THAT.
I [redacted] THINKING MORE, "LET GO OF THE GIRL, [redacted] FREAK"... [redacted] WORKS...
UNHAND HER, VILE REPROBATE!!
IMPRESSIVE DISPLAY...OF IMPOTENCE, HUMAN!
I CAN CONFIGURE MY TECHNO-ORGANIC HARDWARE TO COMPENSATE FOR ANY EARTHBORN ATTACK!
XINA! BEFORE THE PHALANX REFORMS WE MUST COMMENCE WITH PHASE TWO.
WILL THE TWO OF YOU SHUT UP AND--
DUCK!!
UNGH!
THAT'S IT! NO PILE OF ATARI PARTS IS GONNA PUSH SPIDER-MAN AROUND!
PREPARING TO COUNTER ENHANCED-HUMAN ATTACK--
DOOM! I'LL TAKE HIM OUT AT THE JOY-STICK AND YOU BLOW HIS LEGS OFF!

T.O. TENTACLES EVERYWHERE... TOO STRONG! I NEED--
Um... DOOM? DOOMIE??
THE WACKY WALL-CRAWLER COULD USE A LITTLE ASSIST! REMEMBER THE PLAN--?
I WILL NEVER COMPREHEND THIS GLARING HUMAN FRAILTY--
--TRUST!
MAGUS IS DISTRACTED. IT IS TIME--
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO JUST LEAVE HIM!!!
TEK
YES, WE ARE.
BREDEEP--- MY LIEGE--?
LET LOOSE THE [redacted] OF [redacted] DESTINATION-- THE [redacted] LAND.
NOT ONLY ARE YOU A [redacted] TO YOUR PLANET, BUT A COWARD, TOO?!
DOOM IS NEITHER OF THESE THINGS, LITTLE ONE. DOOM IS A SURVIVOR...
...AS YOU WILL UNDERSTAND SOON--
--UNLESS YOU DARE SLANDER ME AGAIN...
XINA!!!
SHOOP

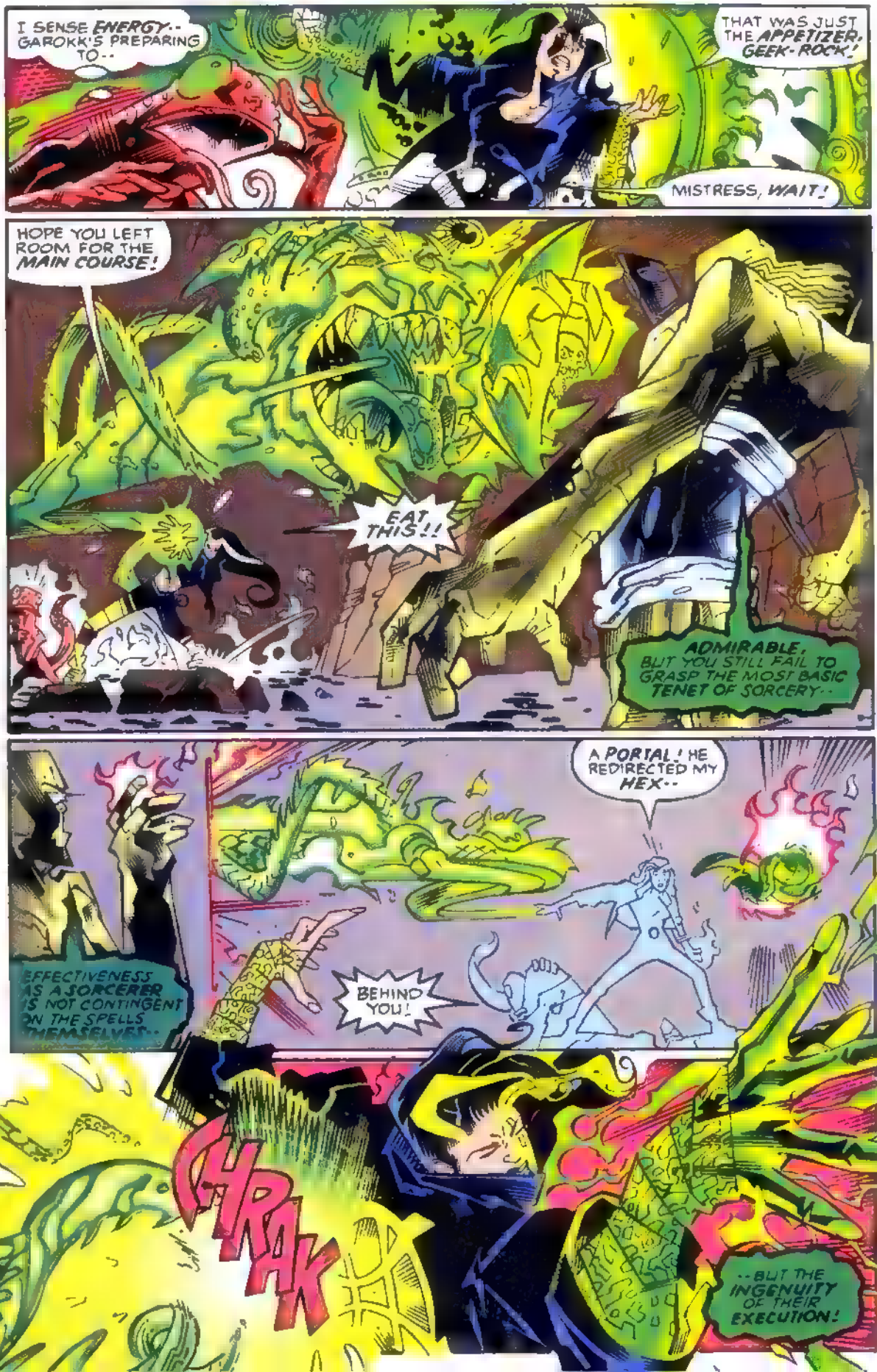
BENEATH THE EARTH'S CRUST...
...THE LAST REFUGE'S INTREPID EXPEDITION TEAM SW[redacted] THE FATE OF ONE OF THEIR OWN...
I FOUND-- koff koff-- NOSTROMO!
WHAT'S LEFT-- hak hak-- OF HIM, THAT IS.
GAAAAH!
SPLASH
THE NEWS HITS HER FELLOW EXPLORERS LIKE A TON OF BRICKS, LEAVING THEM SPEECHLESS...
THE SCIENTIFIC MR. WINN.
AND HODGE... THE TROUBLE-MAKER.
JADE RYUTEKI, TECHNO-DIVA.
HER FELLOW X-MAN, BLOOD-HAWK.
X-NATION'S METAMORPH, WILLOW.
I TRIED-- koff koff-- HAULING HIM OUT OF THERE--
--BUT THAT TECHNO-ORGANIC COCOON'S JUST TOO SHOCKIN' HEAVY!
"TECHNO-ORGANIC COCOON"???
JADE-- WAIT! YOU SHOULDN'T DO THIS.
THAT'S SWEET, 'HAWK-- BUT THERE'S ONE VERY FRIGHTENED DUDE DOWN THERE--
THIS, I'VE GOTTA SEE!
YOU'RE NOT AS PREPARED TO HANDLE THIS AS LUNA [redacted] I.
--AND SINCE NEITHER OF YOU CAN MATCH MY TECHNOLOGICAL EXPERTISE--

--I'M GOING FOR A SWIM.
NOT SO FAST, JADE. WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT WE'RE MESSIN' WITH HERE--
--YOU MIGHT DISRUPT A VERY NATURAL, VERY NECESSARY PROCESS IN NOS'S MATURATION.
WOULD YOU LIKE IT IF WE LEFT YOU DOWN THERE, MR. WINN?
HOW CAN YOU EVEN ASK US TO DO THAT TO OUR FRIEND?
HE'S NOT, WILLOW-- IT MAKES PERFECT SENSE TO LET NATURE RUN ITS COURSE AND NOT INTERFERE.
HOWEVER, IF NOS'S EXAMPLE TEACHES NORMAL FOLKS A LITTLE BIT MORE ABOUT YOU MUTANTS--
--THEN MAYBE WE CAN DO WHAT OUR ANCESTORS-- AND DORKS LIKE HODGE--CAN'T.
MAYBE WE CAN BRIDGE THE GAP SEPARATING US.
SURE, IT SOUNDS CORNY AND IDEALISTIC--
--BUT IT CAN'T HURT US TO TRY...
...I HOPE.
glub!
THOUGH JADE'S WORDS ARE SWALLOWED BY THE WATER'S SURFACE...
...ONE PARTICULAR EXPEDITIONER FEELS THEIR IMPACT TO THE CORE OF HIS BEING.

ON THE FRINGES OF THE LAST REFUGE.
IS SHE GOING TO LIVE?
I DON'T KNOW.
CHOKK
DO YOU CARE?
YES.
IF IT COMES DOWN TO IT, WILL YOU TRY TO END THE SCHISM BETWEEN HUMANS AND MUTANTS, AS SHE HAS--
--OR DOES THAT DREAM DIE WITH CEREBRA?
THOKK
THOKK
THOKK
IT'S OUT OF MY HANDS WHATEVER HAPPENS--
FWAP
--HAPPENS.
MUTANT! WE WANT ANSWERS, NOW!
MY DAUGHTER'S BEEN TELLING ME STORIES ABOUT WHAT GOES ON IN THE SO-CALLED TOWN HALL!

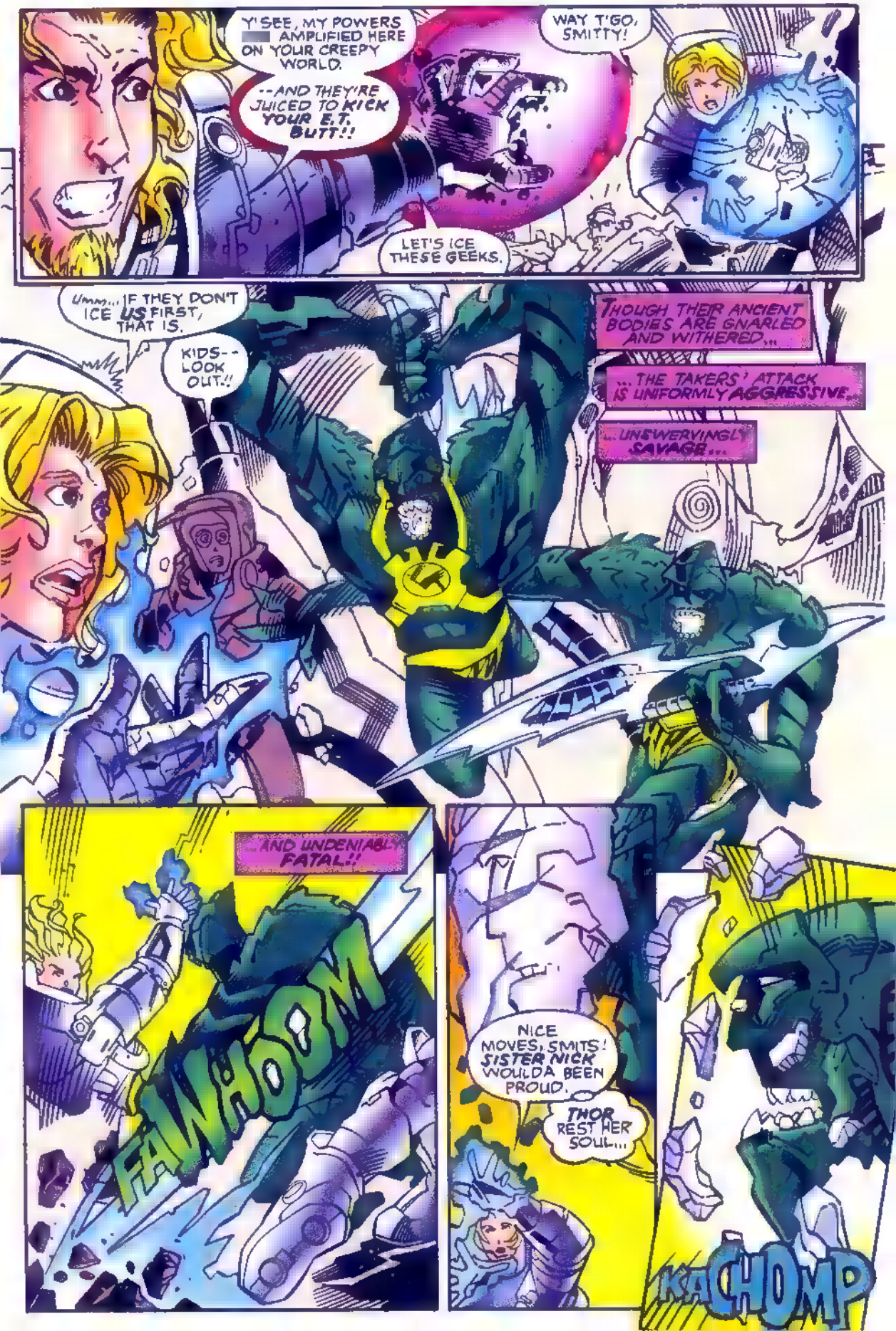
--AN' NOW THE ONLY MUTIE WORTH SPIT IS NEAR DEAD, BUT NO ONE WILL TELL US WHY!
MAYBE THEY DON'T KNOW ENOUGH SMALL WORDS--
WE WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE NOT FORGETTING ABOUT HUMANITY IN THERE!
I THINK ABOUT HUMANS EVERY DAY... I MAKE PLANS.
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR BLOOD, GENESCRAPE, WE'LL PAY THAT PRICE TO PRESERVE OUR KIND--
IF THE OLD WAR IS TO BEGIN ANEW, THEN I INSIST... NO, I DEMAND THAT THE FIRST BLOOD SPILLS FROM MY VEINS!
VICTOR!
IF WE'VE COME ALL THIS WAY JUST TO SUCCUMB TO THE SAME PREJUDICES AND POISONS THAT TAINTED OUR PAST--
--THEN I'D RATHER DIE NOW THAN WATCH ANOTHER CIVILIZATION SELF-DESTRUCT!
SO? WHO WILL STRIKE THE BLOW? NO ONE?
FINE.
THEN STOP THIS FOOLISHNESS BEFORE IT CONSUMES US ALL!
GO TO THE TOWN HALL. TOGETHER, WITH THE MUTANTS, WE WILL FIND THE ANSWERS YOU SEEK.
THEY LISTEN TO YOU. YOU ACTUALLY REASON WITH THEM--
YES. YOU SHOULD TRY IT SOMETIME.

GAROKK'S CHAMBER...
TOUCH ME AGAIN AND I'LL KILL YOU.
ON SECOND THOUGHT--
--WHY WAIT?!
TSCH YEAHH!
AAARGH! IMPOSSIBLE!!
CHTHON'S SHRIEK DECIMATES YOUR TA-KETH BINDING SPELL ANY DAY, GAROKK!
THROW IN A DASH OF NIGIRI'S NOOSE AND SAYONARA STALAGTITES.
THANKS FOR THE MYSTICAL HERP, UMI.
A PLEASURE, MISTRESS.
HER POTENTIAL IS STAGGERING. IF ONLY I CAN TEACH HER MORE!
ENJOY YOUR SMALL TREACHERY, WITCH! I ASSURE YOU IT WILL BE THE LAST.

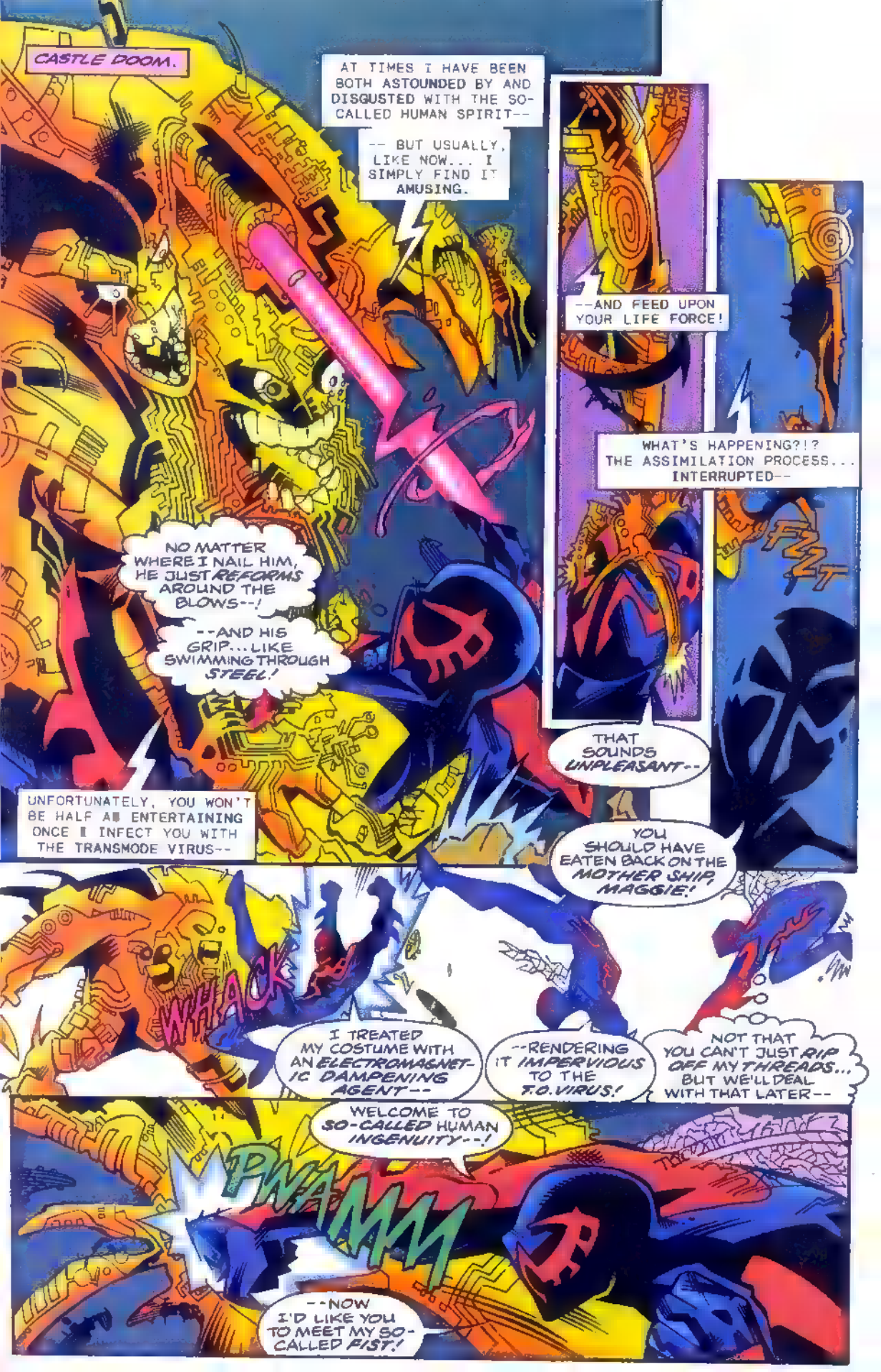

I SENSE ENERGY-- GAROKK'S PREPARING TO--
THAT WAS JUST THE APPETIZER, GEEK-ROCK!
MISTRESS, WAIT!
HOPE YOU LEFT ROOM FOR THE MAIN COURSE!
EAT THIS!!
ADMIRABLE. BUT YOU STILL FAIL TO GRASP THE MOST BASIC TENET OF SORCERY--
A PORTAL! HE REDIRECTED MY HEX--
EFFECTIVENESS AS A SORCERER IS NOT CONTINGENT ON THE SPELLS THEMSELVES--
BEHIND YOU!
CHRAK
--BUT THE INGENUITY OF THEIR EXECUTION!

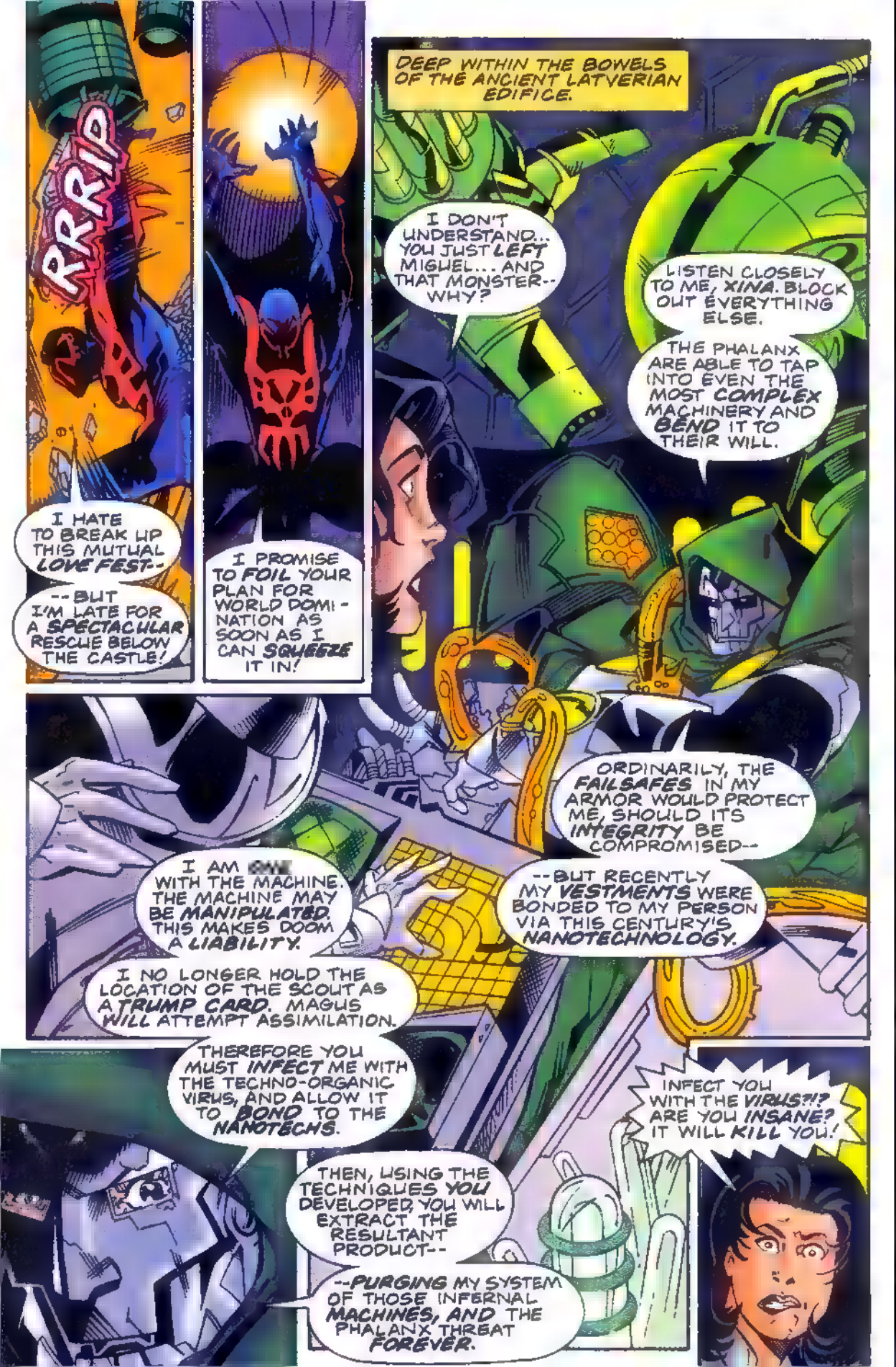
MY BROTHER.. USED TO TAKE MY HAND..
...AND MAKE ME SLAP MYSELF IN.. IN THE FACE WITH IT...
I HATED IT..
MY APOLOGIES, STRANGE, BUT IN A MOMENT..
..YOU WILL BE BEYOND SUCH PETTY IRRITATIONS IN A MOMENT..
HIS TOUCH... COLD.. I'M GETTING WEAKER..
NO, MISTRESS-- NO!
THE TRANSFERENCE WORKED!! MY ASCENDANCE IS REALIZED!!
NOW STRANGE IS BOUND TO THE SAVAGE LAND--!!
--AND GAROKK AGAIN WALKS THE EARTH, NOT ONLY AS A MAN--
--BUT AS THE NEW SORCERER SUPREME!!

MARS..
PLEASE, MOTTHHHHER!
HEEEELP...
SNIK!
..USSS!
DOC--WE'VE GOTTA GET IN THERE AND DO SOMETHING BEFORE IT'S--
TOO LATE!
THOSE ARE CORPSES.
OH, NO-- TWI--?
MY GIRLFRIEND BETTER NOT [redacted] INSIDE THAT CAVE, PINHEAD!
OR ELSE MARS IS ABOUT TO BECOME A WHOLE NEW WORLD O' HURT FOR YOU FREAKS!!!
SHAZAK


Y'SEE, MY POWERS [redacted] AMPLIFIED HERE ON YOUR CREEPY WORLD.
--AND THEY'RE JUICED TO KICK YOUR E.T. BUTT!!
WAY T'GO, SMITTY!
LET'S ICE THESE GEEKS.
UMMM... IF THEY DON'T ICE US FIRST, THAT IS.
KIDS--LOOK OUT!!
THOUGH THEIR ANCIENT BODIES ARE GNARLED AND WITHERED...
...THE TAKERS' ATTACK IS UNIFORMLY AGGRESSIVE...
...UNSWERVINGLY SAVAGE...
...AND UNDENIABLY FATAL!!
FAWHOOM
NICE MOVES, SMITS! SISTER NICK WOULDA BEEN PROUD.
THOR REST HER SOUL...
KACHOMP

YOU WANNA PLAY "CHICKEN," BUTT-UGLY?
FINE. LET'S PLAY!!!
OH, GOD!!! SMITH-- DOOOOON'T!!!
HUH?
POP!
C'MON NOW, GANG-- WHERE'RE YOUR MANNERS?
THAT'S NO WAY TO TREAT OUR NEWFOUND... FRIENDS!
TWILIGHT!!
YOU'RE ALIVE!!


CASTLE DOOM.
AT TIMES I HAVE BEEN BOTH ASTOUNDED BY AND DISGUSTED WITH THE SO-CALLED HUMAN SPIRIT--
-- BUT USUALLY, LIKE NOW... I SIMPLY FIND IT AMUSING.
--AND FEED UPON YOUR LIFE FORCE!
WHAT'S HAPPENING?!? THE ASSIMILATION PROCESS... INTERRUPTED--
FZZT
NO MATTER WHERE I NAIL HIM, HE JUST REFORMS AROUND THE BLOWS--!
--AND HIS GRIP... LIKE SWIMMING THROUGH STEEL!
THAT SOUNDS UNPLEASANT--
UNFORTUNATELY, YOU WON'T BE HALF AS ENTERTAINING ONCE I INFECT YOU WITH THE TRANSMODE VIRUS--
YOU SHOULD HAVE EATEN BACK ON THE MOTHER SHIP, MAGGIE!
WHACK
I TREATED MY COSTUME WITH AN ELECTROMAGNETIC DAMPENING AGENT--
--RENDERING IT IMPERVIOUS TO THE T.O. VIRUS!
NOT THAT YOU CAN'T JUST RIP OFF MY THREADS... BUT WE'LL DEAL WITH THAT LATER--
WELCOME TO SO-CALLED HUMAN INGENUITY--!
PWAMMM
--NOW I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET MY SO-CALLED FIST!


RRRIP
I HATE TO BREAK UP THIS MUTUAL LOVE FEST--
--BUT I'M LATE FOR A SPECTACULAR RESCUE BELOW THE CASTLE!
I PROMISE TO FOIL YOUR PLAN FOR WORLD DOMI-NATION AS SOON AS I CAN SQUEEZE IT IN!
DEEP WITHIN THE BOWELS OF THE ANCIENT LATVERIAN EDIFICE.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND... YOU JUST LEFT MIGUEL... AND THAT MONSTER-- WHY?
LISTEN CLOSELY TO ME, XINA. BLOCK OUT EVERYTHING ELSE.
THE PHALANX ARE ABLE TO TAP INTO EVEN THE MOST COMPLEX MACHINERY AND BEND IT TO THEIR WILL.
ORDINARILY, THE FAILSAFES IN MY ARMOR WOULD PROTECT ME, SHOULD ITS INTEGRITY BE COMPROMISED--
--BUT RECENTLY MY VESTMENTS WERE BONDED TO MY PERSON VIA THIS CENTURY'S NANOTECHNOLOGY.
I AM [illegible] WITH THE MACHINE. THE MACHINE MAY BE MANIPULATED. THIS MAKES DOOM A LIABILITY.
I NO LONGER HOLD THE LOCATION OF THE SCOUT AS A TRUMP CARD. MAGUS WILL ATTEMPT ASSIMILATION.
THEREFORE YOU MUST INFECT ME WITH THE TECHNO-ORGANIC VIRUS, AND ALLOW IT TO BOND TO THE NANOTECHS.
INFECT YOU WITH THE VIRUS?!? ARE YOU INSANE? IT WILL KILL YOU!
THEN, USING THE TECHNIQUES YOU DEVELOPED, YOU WILL EXTRACT THE RESULTANT PRODUCT--
--PURGING MY SYSTEM OF THOSE INFERNAL MACHINES, AND THE PHALANX THREAT FOREVER.

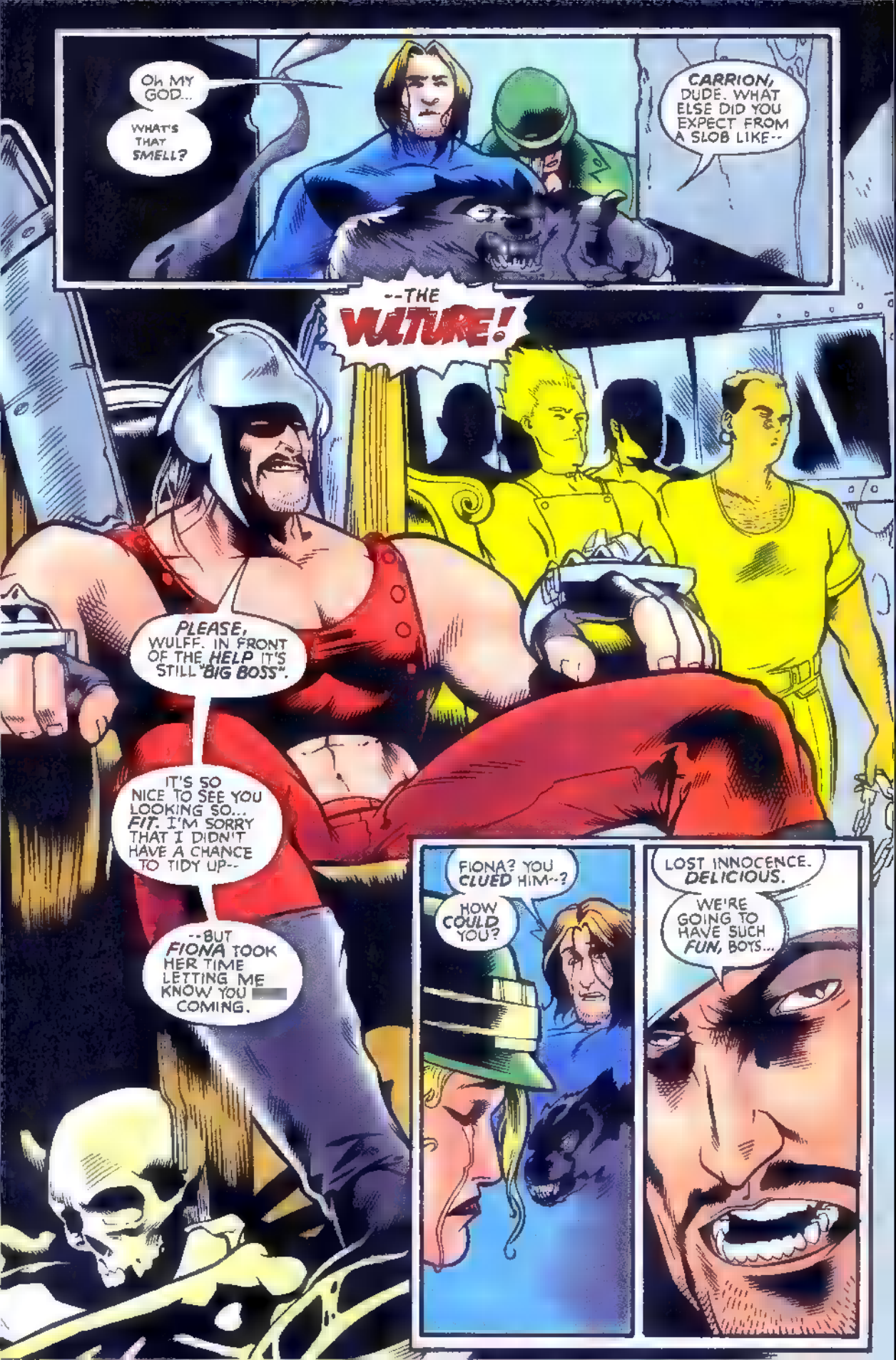
XINA, DOOM WILL BE SLAVE TO NO MAN. IF THE PHALANX TRY TO ASSIMILATE ME...
...
DOOM DIES THIS NIGHT UNLESS YOU SUCCEED.
I-I HAVE FAITH IN YOU.
HIS VOICE SO GENTLE-- IS IT FEAR... OR SOMETHING ELSE? ALL RIGHT...
REMOVING SAFETIES... INTRODUCING... OH, GOD...
...INTRODUCING THE TECHNO-ORGANIC VIRAL SAMPLE--
NOW!
AAARRGHH!
PSI SHOCK!!!
SO MUCH POWER...HIS BODY CAN'T TOLERATE IT!
WHAT HAVE I DONE?
HEADS UP, KIDS!
ONE BONA FIDE OLD FASHIONED TAIL WHUPPIN' COMING RIGHT--UP?
HOLY SHOCK.

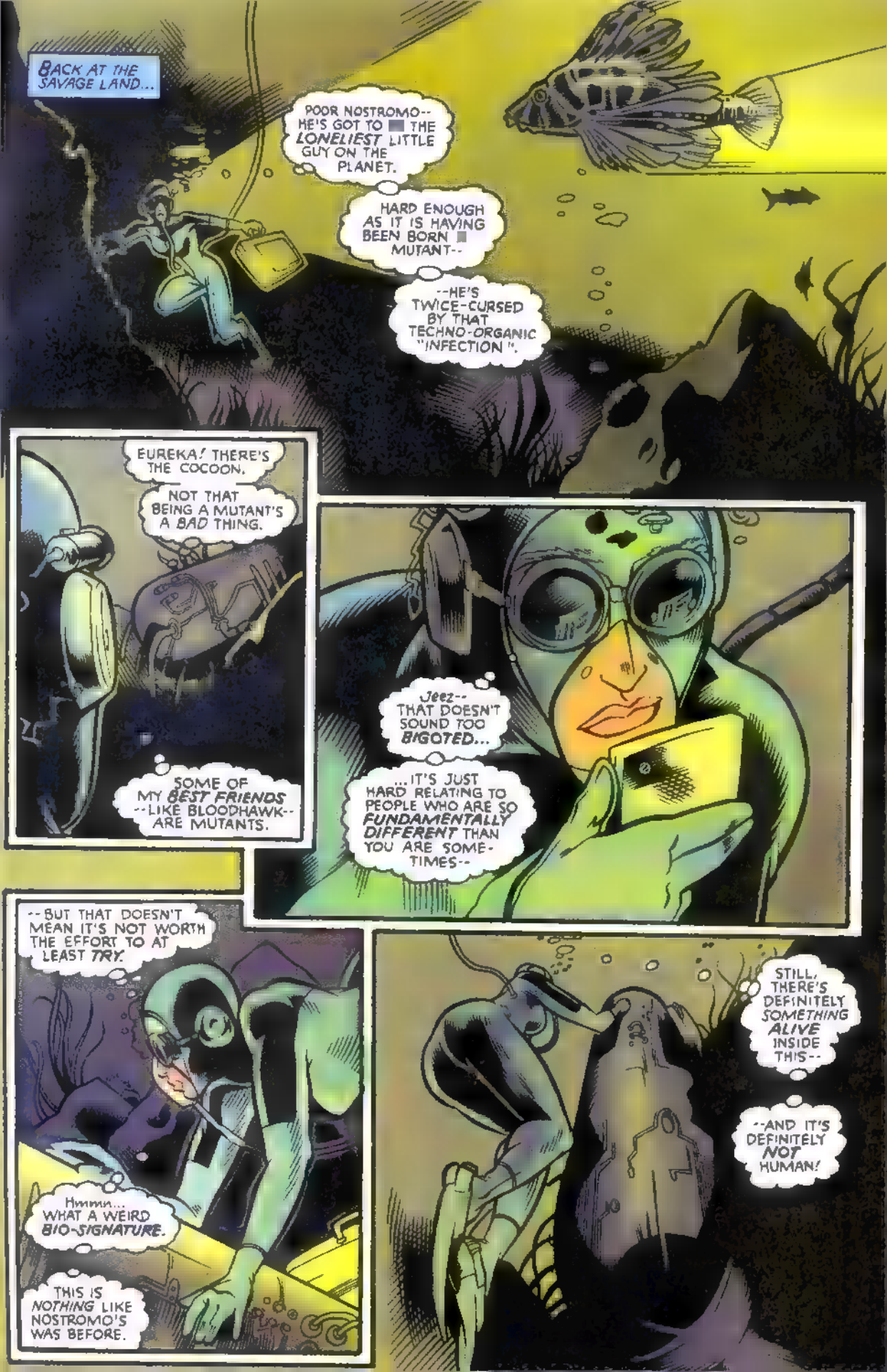
YOU GOT HIM ON THE ROPES! LET'S GO BEFORE--
NO!! DOOM'S TRYING TO EXPEL THEIR CIRCUITRY FROM HIS BODY SO THE PHALANX CAN'T CONTROL HIM--
--BUT THE PROCEDURE IS TEARING HIM APART!!
AND THE PROBLEM WITH THAT IS...
MIGUEL!!!
KIDDING!!
NOT REALLY, BUT IF WE DON'T SAVE HIM, I'LL NEVER FIND OUT WHAT HE DID WITH MY BROTHER GABE!
I CAN'T TELL IF IT'S WORKING, BUT THE POWER [redacted] TOO MUCH, EXCEEDING SAFETY THRESHOLDS--
--WE HAVE TO SHUT IT DOWN OR HE'LL DIE FOR SURE!
PSYCHRAKK
INSTANT BLACKOUT COMING UP! HOPE [redacted] FOR THIS--
AGONIZING MINUTES PASS WITH NO MOVEMENT. NO HEARTBEAT--
XINA...
HE DIDN'T MAKE IT... I FAILED.
Y'KNOW WHAT'S CRAZY? EVEN AFTER ALL THE LIES AND [redacted]... I'M STILL SORRY HE'S--
--GONE?
OH BOY.
CLANGG

OUTSIDE OF THE MIST-SHROUDED FATHERLAND, THE BIG BOSS'S PIRATE FLEET--
UH--S-SIR? THERE'S A PROBLEM.
--WHAT'S LEFT OF IT.
SPEAK, MEAT.
TWO PRISONERS FROM THE GAUNTLET--TH-THEY WENT WILD--DESTROYED EVERYTHING--
ESCAPED?
YES--NO SIR. THEY'RE COMING HERE... WITH FIONA'S HELP. THE TWO MUTANT KIDS UPROAR AND--
--WULFF. BEAUTIFUL BLOODTHIRSTY WULFF.
IT'S ABOUT TIME, MY BOY... I HAVE MISSED YOU SO.
NOT FAR AWAY--
THAT WAS LESS THAN SUBTLE, BOYS.
GEEZ, WULFF... THINK YOU SHOULD HAVE GONE SO EASY ON THE GUY?
I THINK HE STILL HAS A LUNG INTACT.
YOU GOT STATIC WITH THAT, UPROAR? I GAVE HIM AN EARLY CHRISTMAS.
WHAT IF I DO MEAT-Y-BONE? YOU GONNA THRASH ME TOO?
THINKIN' 'BOUT IT, COLD-SORE--

CHILL, DOG BOY!
WHAP
THIS IS YOUR LITTLE ERRAND WE'RE ON, WULFF! THERE'S NO TIME FOR MACHISMO!
I'M SCOUTING AHEAD. HANG BACK TILL I GET YOU.
EVER SINCE WULFF CHANGED INTO THE SHAGGY D.A. IT'S LIKE I DON'T EVEN KNOW HIM!
AND THIS ONE! I CRACK A JOKE AND ALMOST GET MY THROAT TORN OUT --
-- SHE WHACKS HIM IN THE HEAD AND NOTHING! WHAT'S UP WITH THAT??
MIND FILLIN' IN SOME BLANKS FOR ME... AS IN WULFF'S TIME WITH THE WILD BOYZ?
I FORGET YOU DIDN'T RUN WITH WULFF WHEN HIS POWERS KICKED IN. NASTY.
THE BIG BOSS FOUND WULFF AFTER HIS FOLKS KICKED HIM OUT, GAVE HIM A HOME, Y'KNOW THE DEAL.
WULFF FOUND A PLACE HE BELONGED, THE BOSS GOT A NEW, LOYAL ENFORC[redacted].
ENFORCER?
WULFF WAS FULL-OUT HARD-CORE SAVAGE IN THOSE DAYS, UPROAR. BIG BOSS USED HIM A LOT.
USED HIM FOR WHAT?
LIKE THIS... WHEN THE BOSS SENT THE WULFF AFTER YOUR BEHIND--
--YOUR BEHIND DIDN'T SHOW UP ANYWHERE EVER AGAIN.
CANCELED, PERMANENT. YOU DIG?

HE'S JUST A KID! HOW COULD ANYONE MAKE A KID DO THAT?
WULFF GOT AWAY. MADE A LIFE ■ HALO CITY WITH YOU GUYS--
--NOT EVERYONE CAN STAY THE SAME.
SHE TOUCHED ME... COOL.
Yeah... I... uh...
FOUND IT. COME ON.
HE'S HERE. I CAN SMELL ROTTING MEAT AND HIS SWEAT.
SHOULDN'T THERE BE SOME, LIKE, HEAVY DUTY RESISTANCE OR SOMETHING?
WHO CARES? OPEN IT.
KRUNK
IT'S LIKE THERE'S NOTHIN' LEFT OF THE OLD LOVABLE WULFF BENEATH THAT FUR--
I WONDER IF MY LITTLE BUD'S INSIDES MATCH HIS OUTSIDE?
IS IT THAT HE CAN'T MORPH BACK TO NORMAL YET--?
--OR THAT HE DOESN'T WANT TO?


Oh MY GOD...
WHAT'S THAT SMELL?
CARRION, DUDE. WHAT ELSE DID YOU EXPECT FROM A SLOB LIKE--
--THE VULTURE!
PLEASE, WULFF. IN FRONT OF THE HELP IT'S STILL "BIG BOSS".
IT'S SO NICE TO SEE YOU LOOKING SO... FIT. I'M SORRY THAT I DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE TO TIDY UP--
--BUT FIONA TOOK HER TIME LETTING ME KNOW YOU [redacted] COMING.
FIONA? YOU CLUED HIM--?
HOW COULD YOU?
LOST INNOCENCE. DELICIOUS.
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE SUCH FUN, BOYS...


BACK AT THE SAVAGE LAND...
POOR NOSTROMO-- HE'S GOT TO ■ THE LONELIEST LITTLE GUY ON THE PLANET.
HARD ENOUGH AS IT IS HAVING BEEN BORN ■ MUTANT--
--HE'S TWICE-CURSED BY THAT TECHNO-ORGANIC "INFECTION".
EUREKA! THERE'S THE COCOON.
NOT THAT BEING A MUTANT'S A BAD THING.
SOME OF MY BEST FRIENDS --LIKE BLOODHAWK-- ARE MUTANTS.
Jeez-- THAT DOESN'T SOUND TOO BIGOTED...
...IT'S JUST HARD RELATING TO PEOPLE WHO ARE SO FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT THAN YOU ARE SOME-TIMES--
--BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN IT'S NOT WORTH THE EFFORT TO AT LEAST TRY.
Hmmm... WHAT A WEIRD BIO-SIGNATURE.
THIS IS NOTHING LIKE NOSTROMO'S WAS BEFORE.
STILL, THERE'S DEFINITELY SOMETHING ALIVE INSIDE THIS--
--AND IT'S DEFINITELY NOT HUMAN!

ABOVE...
RYUTEK! AND NOSTROMO...? AW, WHO [redacted] 'EM?
ALL THAT PRETTY [redacted] WUSS EVER DOES [redacted] WHINE THAT [redacted] CAN'T TOUCH NOTHIN'--
--AND FOR [redacted] TECHNO-GEEK GENIUS, SHE'S PRETTY SHOCKIN' LAME!
NAME ONE OF HER GIZMOS THAT [redacted] HELPED [redacted] ON A MISSION!?
I SAY WE LET 'EM BOTH DROWN!
ENOUGH!!!!
I AM SICK OF YOUR INTOLERANT LIP, HODGE!
RRRIP
OH, YEAH? WELL, I'M SICK OF YER FACE--
--YA LOUSY PIECE O' GENETRASH!
YOU DON'T LIKE MY FACE, FLATSCAN?
WAIT TILL YOU SEE WHAT MY RAZOR-SHARP TALONS ARE GOING TO DO--
SHUNK
--TO YOURS!

Whoa THERE, BLOODY--
--BETTER MAKE SURE T'SCRUB BEFORE YA PERFORM PLASTIC SURGERY!
LET ME GO, LUNA!
I'M GOING TO PUT HIM DOWN LIKE THE CUR HE IS... ONCE AND FOR ALL!
NO CAN DO, BUD!
I MAY BE AS BLOODTHIRSTY AS YOU ARE SOMETIMES--
--AND EVEN THOUGH HODGE (TOTAL DWEEB THAT HE IS) MAY DESERVE IT--
--WE X-MEN DON'T KILL.
THAT'S USIN' YOUR HEAD, LUNA. Giggle!
WILLOW... DON'T MAKE ME HURT YOU.
I'VE STAUNCHED THE BLEEDING, SO HODGE'LL BE OKAY-
--BUT DID YOU GUYS HEAR ANYTHING ODD?
"I JUST HAD THE STRANGEST FEELING THAT WE'RE BEING WATCHED..."

I'VE GOT TO GET NOSTROMO BACK TO BASE A.S.A.P.
I'M GONNA NEED TO RUN SOME SERIOUS DIAGNOSTICS ON-- huh?!
THE COCOON IT'S OPENING!
Oh my god-- NOOOOO!
AND AS THE MYSTERY OF THE MUTANT KNOWN AS NOSTROMO IS REVEALED BENEATH THE WAVES...
KRAKA-BOOOM!
LOOK! THERE THEY ARE!
I... I DON'T THINK THEY'RE BREATHING!
EASY, KIDDO-- THEY'LL BE OKAY.
LET'S JUST GET THEM ON TERRA FIRMA FIRST.
AND THEN MY MISSION WILL BE COMPLETE!

SUDDENLY...
FREEZE!!!
I'M AFRAID YOU'RE SORELY MISTAKEN, FRIEND.
THE FIRST PERSON WHO MOVES GETS THEIR GUTS FULL O' LASER!
LITTLE ROBOT BOY HERE BELONGS TO DOOM.!!
OMIGOD-- MR. WINN.! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU???
NOT A THING, SWEET WILLOW.
BECAUSE NOW AND FOREVERMORE, NOSTROMO BELONGS--
--BODY AND SOUL--
--TO THE PHALANX!!!
THE PENULTIMATE CHAPTER TO THE GREATEST 2099 STORY EVER TOLD!!! (HOW'S THAT FOR HYPE???)

A guide to THE WORLD OF TOMORROW Part I

Upon Latveria

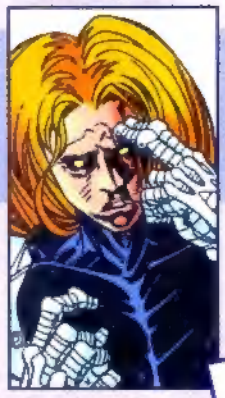
Doom — The self-proclaimed "All-Father" made a deal with the alien invaders, the Phalanx, to resurrect the "Fatherland" — his Latveria, that was sunken beneath the waves during the WorldFlood. The price — the potential domination of the last stands of humanity dotted about the globe. Only Doom's cunning will keep the alien armada's plan from working. But now his life lies in the balance and with it... humanity's fate.

Spider-Man — The first hero of 2099, Miguel O'Hara had been forced into aiding Doom with his research involving the techno-organic virus of the Phalanx — for Doom hold's O'Hara's brother prisoner. Now Miguel fights for his life against the Magus as a result of Doom's desperate gamble.

Magus — The ruthless leader of the collective techno-organic entity known as the Phalanx. They threaten humanity with total obliteration — but Magus seems to have even worse in store for his "ally," Doom...

Tina — Once Miguel O'Hara's girlfriend, she served Doom, believing him to be working to rebuild civilization. Discovering the "All-Father's" deal with the Phalanx, she is faced with the choice between Doom and Miguel — and the success of the Phalanx's attack hinges on her

Beneath the Savage Land



Nostromo — A dark alien heritage is unleashed in him when he attempts to save his friend Willow. He is the missing key the Phalanx search for. Now dormant, soon he awakes...

Jade Ryutaki — The technological whiz-kid, she is the only thing dear to Bloodhawk — and holds the key to his salvation...

Bloodhawk — Driven by anger against a world that hates and fears him — can he put aside the past, to build a new future?

Willow — The mutant shape-shifter. What is the secret she has uncovered by absorbing the form of the alien corpse in the ancient crashed ship found beneath the Savage Land? It is not Phalanx...

Hodge — Without powers in a harsh situation — he blames mutants for the catastrophe that continues to ravage the globe. Now he is caught in a situation where his cooperation with mutants could mean the difference between *his* life and death.

Le Lunatica — The mutant savage — she finds herself the voice of reason between the human, Hodge, and the mutant, Bloodhawk.

Winn — Thought to be the human friend of Hodge, Winn has revealed himself to actually be a member of the Phalanx! Now he must battle Doom's forces for control of Nostromo...